

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, Nannette Rodriguez
Tel: 305.673.7575, Fax: 786.394.4149, E-mail: nrodriguez@miamibeachfl.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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Miami Beach Shoreline Named One of America's Best Restored Beaches

-- 2011 Top Restored Beach Award by American & Beach Preservation Association --

Miami Beach, FL -- The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) announced yesterday that the Miami-Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Surge Protection Project in Miami Beach is a winner of its 2011 Best Restored Beach Award.

"ASBPA created the Best Restored Beach award in 2001 as a way of highlighting the value of America's restored beaches," said Harry Simmons, mayor of Caswell Beach, N.C., and ASBPA president. "As Americans flock to our coastline during the upcoming beach season, most don't even realize they may be enjoying a restored beach."

The Miami Beach restoration project was a federally sponsored project with cost sharing for the initial and subsequent re-nourishment projects between federal, state, and local partners. The beach nourishment restored/constructed a 10.5-mile protective beach fill extending from Government Cut through Haulover Beach Park.

"The renourishment efforts have resulted in numerous economic and ecological benefits to the community," said Miami Beach City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez.

The City of Miami Beach is an intensely developed urban environment. The City has been able to balance the needs for recreation and habitat through the restoration process. The City realizes that the protection and enhancement of the natural resources is closely linked to the preservation of quality of life and the stability of its tourism-based economy.

The initial project was constructed over the period 1976 and 1981 at a cost of approximately \$64,000,000 and has revitalized the economy of the Miami Beach area. The restoration plan was developed to address severe beach erosion along the Miami-Dade County shoreline, and the associated economic and social impacts to the community. The restoration project was originally included a storm protection berm planted with native dune vegetation.

In early 2000, the City of Miami Beach initiated a \$3,000,000 citywide Dune Restoration and Enhancement Program to remove exotic nuisance plant species; re-vegetate the dunes with native species; replace protective fencing adjacent to the dunes; and the install protective signage.

Miami Beach is also the nesting habitat for endangered sea turtles, butterflies, and several dune vegetation species including the Biscayne Prickly Ash, Beach Cluster Vine and the Beach Star.

For the last 40 years, beach restoration has been the preferred method of shore protection in coastal communities on the east, west and Gulf coasts. Beach restoration is the process of placing beach-quality sand on dwindling beaches to reverse or offset the effects of erosion.

The three main reasons for restoration are:

- Storm protection a wide sandy beach helps separate storm waves from upland structures and infrastructure.
- Habitat restoration numerous species rely on wide, healthy beaches as a place to live, feed and nest.
- Recreation America's beaches have twice as many visitors annually as all of America's national parks combined. Every year, there are more than 2 billion visitors to America's beaches. In 2007, beaches contributed \$322 billion to the America's economy. More importantly, for every dollar the federal government spends on beach nourishment, it gets an estimated \$320 back in tax revenues.

Coastal communities have restored more than 370 beaches in the United States, including such iconic beaches as Jones Beach in New York, Ocean City in Maryland, Virginia Beach, Miami Beach, Galveston Island in Texas, and Waikiki Beach in Hawaii.

During times of economic hardship, the beach can be an even more desirable vacation destination than other domestic and foreign alternatives, offering families and visitors an accessible and affordable getaway.

To enter the Best Restored Beach competition, coastal communities nominated their projects for consideration, and an independent panel of coastal managers and scientists selected the winners. Judging was based on three criteria: the economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community; the short- and long-term success of the restoration project; and the challenges each community overcame during the course of the project.

The 2011 Best Restored Beach award winners are:

- Isle of Palms, South Carolina
- Menauhant Beach, Massachusetts
- · Miami Beach, Florida
- Moonlight Beach, California
- Presque Isle, Pennsylvania

Past Best Restored Beach award winners include: Panama City Beach, Fla., in 2002; San Diego Beach in 2003; Ocean City, Md., in 2004; Indian River County, Fla., in 2005; Delaware's Rehoboth and Dewey Beaches in 2006; the Chaland Headland Restoration Project in Louisiana in 2007; Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle, Wash. in 2008; South Padre Island, Texas, in 2009 and Navarre Beach, Florida in 2010. A complete list of award-winning beaches, and more information about beach restoration and ASBPA, is available online at www.asbpa.org.

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BEST RESTORED BEACH COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Lee Weishar, lweishar@whgrp.com, 508.495.6221

MIAMI BEACH PUBLIC WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION:

Lisa Botero, environmental resource manager, lisabotero@miamibeachfl.gov, 305.673.7080

ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the ASBPA promotes the integration of science, policies and actions that maintain, protect and enhance the coasts of America. For more information on ASBPA, go to www.asbpa.org, facebook or www.twitter.com/asbpa.

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